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recommended to the last session of the last Congress embraced a State bank note recommendation, which would have destroyed the national character of our paper currency and turned the country over to a State bank currency issued under State laws. This record may be the cleanest in the country in the judgment of the Cleveland-worshipping wimp, but many others will think differently.

## THE GOVERNOR'S PRIVATE LETTER.

Governor Matthews, through the indiscretion of a friend in Anderson, is made to contribute another opinion on the money question which will tend to add to the gaudy of his opponents in his own party in this State. During the past few months he has been trying to pose as a sound money man, and has distinctly declared himself hostile to the free and unlimited coinage of silver on the present ratio. Now, in a letter to an Anderson friend, which probably was not intended for publication, he declares against the present standard and would have something else—what he does not say.

Governor Matthews is an amiable gentleman and a sharp politician when the affair does not rise above the dispensing of small patronage, but his statesmanship ends with such performances as that by which he retained the custodian of the Statehouse. His utterances on the money question show that he either does not grasp its importance or is willing to declare for a policy which will bring disaster to the country if his ambition can be gratified and his party kept in power. Like the most of the Democratic leaders of his party during the war, Governor Matthews is for party first, even if being for it would bring disaster. The Journal makes this statement because the course of the Governor more than justifies it.

In his Anderson letter Governor Matthews attributes the reduced wages and the lack of employment to the fact that the country is on a gold basis. That will not do. Wages increased year by year until the election of 1892. In no country in the world was there so full employment as in the United States until Governor Matthews rejoined in Cleveland's election and the coming of his free-trade policy. The growth of industry and business was never so marked in any nation as in the United States from 1880 to 1893, under the policy of protection and the same gold basis extended by three times as much silver money as the country had of all kinds prior to 1861. By the adoption of the Democratic tariff policy one or two great industries and a score of smaller ones have been crippled. Compared with the average of the four years preceding the passage of the law which put wool upon the free list, the importation of wool has been doubled, depriving the American wool-grower of a market for 120,000,000 pounds during the fiscal year 1895, and sending \$3,770,150 out of the country for the purchase of wool, or double the average of the four years of the McKinley tariff. The importation of woolen and worsted goods during the first year of the Gorman tariff was valued, or, rather, undervalued, at \$60,319,301, compared with \$16,809,372 the last year of the McKinley tariff. The loss of the production of \$43,000,000 worth of woolen goods tends to fill the country with idle labor. Cotton manufacturing, glass, pottery, cutlery and scores of industries which make use of fabrics of iron and steel are crippled by the foreign competition due to Gov. Matthews's free-trade heresy, and not to the money standard. With the same money there were no silent factories and crowds of unemployed men in 1892. If wages are lower now and labor has short employment, it is due to the attempt to place the country on a free-trade basis, of which Governor Matthews was a zealous, if not an able champion.

## HOW TO CONTRACT THE CURRENCY.